

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-24 in view of the reasons set forth herein.

In the Office Action, claims 1-24 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/005,225. In the interest of expediency, Applicants have included herein a terminal disclaimer and respectfully request that the Examiner's provisional rejection of claims 1-24 be withdrawn. However, it will be appreciated that the filing of the terminal disclaimer to obviate the Examiner's rejection is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection. *Quad Environmental Technologies vs. Union Sanitary District*, 946 F. 2d. 870 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See, e.g., MPEP § 804.03.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4089 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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